Scheme for promotion of handicaft industry

†430. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effective scheme has been formulated by Government to promote handicraft industry in the different States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the year-wise export of handicraft made during the last three years and foreign exchange earned by the country thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The schemes formulated by the Government to promote handicrafts industry in the country include: training for skill upgradation; marketing development support; revival of languishing crafts; design and technology upgradation; setting up of Craft Development Center and Common Facility Center; setting up of worksheds and worksheds-cum-housing etc. With a view to ensure sustainable development of the sector the Government has recently launched a new comprehensive scheme named "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana" which seeks to develop selected artisan clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation.

(c) The year-wise export of handicrafts during the last three years and foreign exchange earned therefrom by the country is as under:—

(Rs. in crores) (US Million $)

Sl. No.	Year	Export of Handicrafts	Foreign exchange earned
1.	1998-99	7072.34	1680.98
2.	1999-2000	8059.63	1859.95
3.	2000-01	9270.50	2050.34

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.